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Subject: Effluent Guidelines Plan

Attachment: 2012 Preliminary Plan.pdf [224 KB]

In yesterday's *Federal Register*, EPA published a notice announcing the availability of the Preliminary 2012 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan and the 2011 Annual Effluent Guidelines Review Report. A copy of the notice is

If you have any questions, please let me know.

B. Summary Findings of the 2011 Annual Reviews

After completing the 2011 Annual Reviews, EPA has determined that discharges from 17 of the top 20 industrial categories were not a hazard priority. However, EPA determined that additional information and analysis is necessary before concluding the review of the three remaining point source categories: Pulp, Paper and Paperboard (40 CFR Part 430), Petroleum Refining (40 CFR Part 419), and Meat and Poultry Products (40 CFR Part 432). Therefore, EPA continued to review these categories' discharges during the 2012 Annual Reviews and will report its finding in the Final 2012 Plan.

C. Summary of the Preliminary 2012 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan

EPA is not identifying any industry category for new or revised effluent guidelines in the Preliminary 2012 Plan. In addition, for previously initiated rulemakings, EPA is proposing to delist from the effluent guidelines plan the rulemaking for the Coalbed Methane Extraction subcategory based on new information regarding the declining prevalence and economic viability of this industry, due in large part to the increased extraction of natural gas from other sources, such as shale formations. See the supporting documents available at <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/304m/index.cfm> for further explanation. EPA is also proposing to delist the Chlorine and Chlorinated Hydrocarbon (CCH) manufacturing industry from the Plan and discontinue its rulemaking.

Based on a preliminary study that has been completed, EPA has concluded that an effluent guideline revision is not necessary for Regenerated Cellulose Manufacturers (previously categorized as Plastics Molding and Forming (40 CFR Part 463)).

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